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Nothing Is Changed

Six Soviet newspapermen have arrived in the United States to begin a month-long study of "the best of things" in American life. They follow a delegation of Soviet farm experts and a contingent of home builders. They, too, are interested in the best of things this country has to offer in their particular field. Their visits, their friendliness and the new attitude toward American visitors to Russia contribute to the appearance of an improved international situation.

Actually, however, nothing that is fundamental has changed. Moscow has made no concessions that suggest in impressive terms an abandonment of Soviet Russia's aggressive designs. For this reason any disposition to place faith in the highly exploited "spirit of Geneva" holds the danger that we will be fooled and trapped.

Allen W. Dulles, head of the Central Intelligence Agency do see "any change whatever." Admiral Radford, chairman of the U. S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, says he has not seen so far "any fundamental change in basic long-term Communist objectives." General Gruenther, supreme commander of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, is convinced that "there has been no significant departure from any Soviet position which has heretofore been considered as important."

These rather somber estimates of the existing situation justify anxiety as to the condition of General Gruenther's command. NATO, charged with the defense of Western Europe, is not flourishing. The Scandinavians are not cooperating; Turkey and Greece are at swords' points, and France is preoccupied with colonial wars in North Africa. To make matters just a little worse, Great Britain has announced a policy of military fetrenchment. And in our own country, in the hope that a balanced budget may be achieved for campaign purposes, military expenditures are being slashed.

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Obviously, the West is taking calculated risks. Are we being fooled by the Kremlin's smiles? Are we being snared by the "spirit of Geneva" into letting our guard down and thus inviting aggression? Unfortunately, there is a great deal to suggest an affirmative answer to these questions.